

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A rigid video-endoscope system including a front-end section and a camera head, said rigid endoscope system comprising:

in order from an object side thereof and in the direction of said front-end insertion section to said camera head, an objective optical system that forms an image of an object, a relay optical system that relays the image formed by the objective optical system, an imaging optical system that forms an image of the relayed image and a solid-state image sensor that receives the image formed by the imaging optical system, and

wherein said camera head includes a part of said relay optical system, said imaging optical system and said solid-state imaging sensor, and

wherein said front-end insertion section and camera head are detachable ~~in the region of said relay optical system.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A rigid-endoscope as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~said camera head includes a part of said relay optical system, said imaging optical system and said solid-state imaging sensor,~~ said camera head further including a view field mask, wherein said view field mask, said imaging optical system and said solid-state imaging sensor are constructed to be integrally moved in an focusing operation.

Claim 3 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 2, further comprising a mask adjusting device for adjusting the position of said view field mask vertically with respect to an optical axis to allow said view field mask to be focused into an image on the center of said solid-state imaging sensor without decentering from said center when said view field mask is focused into an image on said solid-state image sensor through said imaging optical system.

Claim 4 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 2, further comprising a solid-state image sensor adjusting device for adjusting the position of said solid-state image sensor vertically with respect to an optical axis to allow said view field mask to be focused into an image on the center of said solid-state imaging sensor without decentering from said center when said view field mask is focused into an image on said solid-state image sensor through said imaging optical system.

Claim 5 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 2, wherein said imaging optical system includes at least a cemented lens having positive power, two positive lenses and a single negative lens.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~said camera head includes a part of said relay optical system, said imaging optical system and said solid state imaging sensor,~~ said camera head further including a view field mask, wherein said part of said relay optical system is constructed to be moved in an focusing operation.

Claim 7 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 6, further comprising a mask adjusting device for adjusting the position of said view field mask vertically with respect to an optical axis to allow said view field mask to be focused into an image on the center of said solid-state image sensor without decentering from said center when said view field mask is focused into an image on said solid-state image sensor through said imaging optical system.

Claim 8 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 6, further comprising a solid-state image sensor adjusting device for adjusting the position of said solid-state image sensor vertically with respect to an optical axis to allow said view field mask to be focused into an image on the center of said solid-state image sensor without decentering from said center when said view field mask is focused into an image on said solid-state image sensor through said imaging optical system.

Claim 9 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 6, wherein said imaging optical system includes at least a cemented lens having positive power, two positive lenses and a single negative lens.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~said camera head includes a part of said relay optical system, said imaging optical system and said solid-state imaging sensor,~~ said camera head further including a view field mask, and said imaging optical system including a front lens group and a rear lens group, wherein said view field mask and said front lens groups are constructed to be integrally moved in an focusing operation.

Claim 11 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope system as defined in claim 10, wherein said view field mask is located substantially at the front focal point of said front lens group.

Claim 12 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 10, which includes a mask adjusting device for adjusting the position of said view field mask vertically with respect to an optical axis to allow said view field mask to be focused into an image on the center of said solid-state sensor without decentering from said center when said view field mask is focused into an image on said solid-state image sensor through said imaging optical system.

Claim 13 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 10, which includes a solid-state imaging sensor adjusting device for adjusting the position of said solid-state image sensor vertically with respect to an optical axis to allow said view field mask to be focused into an image on the center of said solid-state image sensor without decentering from said center when said view field mask is focused into an image on said solid-state image sensor through said imaging optical system.

Claim 14 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope as defined in claim 10, wherein said imaging optical system includes at least a cemented lens having positive power, two positive lenses and a single negative lens.

Claim 15 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope system as defined in claim 1, wherein said front-end insertion sections are selectively replaceable to said camera head.

Claim 16 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope system as defined in claim 1, wherein said front-end insertion sections are selectively replaceable to said camera head.

Claim 17 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope system as defined in claim 1, wherein a plurality of said front-end insertion sections are selectively replaceable to said camera head.

Claim 18 (Original): A rigid video-endoscope system as defined in claim 1, wherein light beam is substantially parallelized between said front-end insertion section and said camera head.